



# Trail Talk

**Working Weekend # 70**

**November 2013**

The cooler temperatures of November brought great working weather for Team Conasauga's 70<sup>th</sup> Working Weekend. The fresh coat of autumn leaves allowed us to do a much needed disappearing act for some campfire rings at Bray Field on Friday. Winter rain moved in on us Saturday, providing an adventurous day in the clouds.

Friday, November 15 started out cool for our trek into Bray Field. This one mile section of the Conasauga River Trail is the most heavily used and had become over populated with campfire rings. **Jim Bishop, Troy Brown, Wanda Brown, and Miles Wise**, who brought two new comers **Andrew Muse** and **John Everett**, were in attendance for the hike and stewardship on the Conasauga River. As we stared down into the river on the Hickory Creek trail, we dismantled several campfire rings but when we hit the river, the real work began.



Before



After

Splitting up into groups, we leap frogged up river making it to Bray Field just in time for lunch. After lunch we made our way up to the Panther Creek trail junction removing the last few campfire rings to complete the task for the day. In total we broke down 30 campfire rings. Most were over used and in dire need of maintenance. Only crossing the Conasauga River once, we left several campfire rings to be removed in warmer weather.



Before



After

The work was tough because of the large stones and mountains of ash but the finished product improved the wilderness character of the area, giving the image of the pristine river corridor you would expect to see.

Saturday November, 16 started out a little soggy especially for Miles and Andrew. They were the only two who braved it out through the night at the Ball Field camping area. The wet conditions also made us punt on the ambitious project of tackling all of Emory Creek Trail, which hinged on a group starting from the lower trailhead. That group would have had to make the treacherous ford of Holly Creek and it was deemed too dangerous. But all was not



lost. With a great group consisting of **Jim Leatherwood, Robert Edmondson, Deede Edmondson, Amos Burrell, Troy Brown, Wanda Brown, Miles Wise, Andrew Muse, David Tanner, and Jensen Tanner**, we set out to complete as much as possible. With the mountain socked in with clouds and maybe our heads in them too, we made our way down the mountain repairing water bars, clearing trees, lopping, and weed whipping as we went. The group took lunch at the start of the brushiest section and tackled it shortly after. Pressing on we made it all the way to where the trail turns from single track into the old road bed, our turn around point. That is also where we finally made it out of the clouds. After taking a short break, we climbed back into the clouds to the top of the mountain. Back at the top we were greeted by warm food and a warm fire provided by Troy and Wanda Brown. Other food was shared along with conversation to bring a wonderful conclusion to Team Conasauga's 70<sup>th</sup> Working Weekend.



As always I would like to thank all of our volunteers who participated in making this a great Working Weekend. I am looking forward to seeing you all next time along with all of you who are reading this. As you may well know, 2014 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act and many events will be taking place to commemorate the act. Chattahoochee National Forest is no different. We are currently planning an event in Dahlonega, GA and would like to have some Team Conasauga representatives on the planning committee. Anyone who is interested, please contact me at [kvasalinda@fs.fed.us](mailto:kvasalinda@fs.fed.us). Thanks and see you next time.

*~Kevin~*